

# The Mystery of the Two Harvesting Angels in Revelation 14

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If you look at Commentaries on the book of Revelation, or books commenting on Revelation, you'll see that they almost all avoid any sort of discussion of the first of the two harvesting angels in Revelation 14. It's a mystery to most Commentary authors. Many readily comment on the second harvesting angel, because its meaning is easy and apparent; but they generally avoid any discussion of the first harvesting angel.

A friend recently asked me about this topic, that had come up in a forum of rapture and prophecy-related authors, academics and teachers. He was dissatisfied with all the views that forum participants had presented, and asked me about it separately by e-mail. I too had never written much about the two harvesting angels in my books or articles; so initially, I didn't know the answer to the first harvesting angel. I prayed about it and also studied the subject, and believe the following article fully explains both of the two harvesting angels in Revelations 14. First, below is the relevant text using a direct translation of the Peshitta Aramaic NT ( from Pastor David Bauscher's new [Peshitta Aramaic-English Interlinear NT](#)). I am using the Peshitta Aramaic NT text throughout this article because it sometimes presents a slightly different text than English Bibles based on the Greek NT manuscripts:

Revelation 14:14-20 And behold, (*there was*) a white cloud, and **upon the cloud sat the likeness of a man; and he had on his head a crown of gold, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

15 **And another angel went out from the temple** and shouted with a loud voice to him sitting on the cloud, "Thrust forth your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come."

16 **And he who sat on the cloud thrust his sickle onto the earth; and the earth was reaped.**

17 **And another angel went out from the temple which is in Heaven; and there was with him a sharp sickle.**

18 And another angel went out from the altar, who had authority over fire; and he shouted with loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle with him, "Thrust forth your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vines of the earth, because its grapes are large (ripe)."

19 **And the angel thrust his sickle onto the earth and gathered of the vines of the earth, and cast (*them*) into the great winepress of the passion (wrath) of God.**

20 And the winepress was trodden from outside the city; and blood came out of the winepress up to the bridle of horses for 1,200 stadia (137.95 miles, 1 stadia = 607 feet).

Some casually read the above portion of Revelation and think that the first harvesting angel in v14-16 might be Yeshua (Jesus) our Messiah. The reason for that false conclusion is the phrase *Son of Man* in many English translations from the Greek manuscripts (KJV, Amplified, Living Bible, etc.), and also because of the gold crown on his head. The capitalization is not warranted and the Peshitta Aramaic NT says merely, *the likeness of a man*. Translators have intentionally misled people by inserting the unwarranted capitalization. Other translations like the NASB and Revised Standard use, *like a son of man*. However, v15 dispels that notion of the person being Yeshua (Jesus), since it says that **another angel came out of the temple**, referring back to the person in v14 as an angel. Therefore, the first harvesting person in v14 is an angel and not Yeshua (Jesus) our Messiah.

If you read the above verse in your personal Bible, Revelation 14:20, the English translation from many of the Greek manuscripts often has 1600 stadia or furlongs (some just say 200 miles). Pastor Bauscher has an extensive note in his *Peshitta Aramaic-English Interlinear NT* explaining how some of the Greek manuscript translators likely mistranslated the Aramaic for v20, to incorporate the error.

The Peshitta Aramaic NT (Crawford manuscript for Revelation) has *alef vumatin eestdon*, which is literally, *one thousand and two hundred stadia*. Note that some Western Peshitta Aramaic texts use a back-translated Revelation from the Greek, since most very old Peshitta manuscripts only had 22 books and not the 27 we have today. They perpetuate the error in the Greek manuscripts (this is also the error in Revelation 14:20 in the Jerusalem Bible Society Peshitta Aramaic NT). Pastor Bauscher notes in his Interlinear, that the Greek ms. Aleph (4<sup>th</sup> century) has *a thousand two hundred* as does the Philoxenian Syriac Greek version (6<sup>th</sup> century). The Greek codex Sinaiticus (195 AD?) has *a thousand [six] and two hundred*, so someone added the [six] later or noted it may be interpreted both ways; but 1,200 is the main reading in it. The codex Sinaiticus may be the oldest complete NT in Greek. Pastor Bauscher writes that the person translating from the Aramaic to Greek saw the letter 'vav' and read it as a "6" instead of as "and", and used one thousand plus 6 x 100 in a more Hebrew manner. The point is that the Peshitta Aramaic NT (Crawford manuscript of Revelation) has 1,200 stadia as do the 3 very old Greek manuscripts I mentioned. **1,200 stadia is about 138 miles and not 200 miles.**

## Second Harvesting Angel:

Since the second Harvesting Angel in Revelation 14 is simpler, straightforward and easily understood by most readers, we'll cover that first.

The winepress of the wrath of God (or nearly identical terminology) is used a number of times in the NT, besides Revelation 14:19-20. Looking at these possible usages helps to clearly identify exactly what is meant in Revelation 14:19-20.

1. Revelation 14:8 ...Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great, who gave all nations **to drink of the passion of her fornication**. (put here because the Greek often has "wine of the passion").
2. Revelation 14:9-10 ...Whoever worshiped the Beast and its image and received its mark on his forehead shall also **drink from the wine of the passion/wrath of MarYah** (MarYah=YHVH, and if translated is 'Lord Yah', but it is used as a name throughout the Peshitta Aramaic NT), which is mixed without dilution **in the cup of His rage**,...
3. Revelation 16:19 ...And Babylon the Great was remembered before God, to give to it the **cup of the wine of His passion/wrath and of His rage**.
4. Revelation 17:2 For the kings of the earth committed fornication with her (Babylon), and all earth dwellers are drunk with the **wine of her fornication**.
5. Revelation 18:3 Because she (Babylon) mixed the **wine of her fornication** for all the nations, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her,...

6. Revelation 19:15 And sharp swords came out of their mouths (army of heaven) by which they will kill the nations. And He will shepherd them (nations? or army of heaven?) with a rod of iron; and **He treads the winepress of the rage of Almighty God.** [Note: Revelation 12:5 clearly shows that the Messiah will rule all the nations with a rod of iron.]

As is apparent, Revelation 14:8; 17:2 and 18:3 are all about end-times Babylon; and **the wine of her passion** is not the subject of **the winepress of the wrath of God** in Revelation 14:19-20. The three above texts applicable to us are Revelation 14:9-10; 16:19 and 19:15. As 19:15 shows, it is the Messiah Himself who treads the winepress of the wrath of God. Two additional verses clarify what the wine of the wrath of God entails:

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another great and wonderful sign in Heaven: Angels which had the **seven last plagues with them, for in them the passion/wrath of God is finished.**

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a loud voice from the Temple (in Heaven) that said to the **seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls/vessels of the wrath/passion of God on the earth.**

**The 7 Bowl Judgments are the wine of the wrath of God, which the Messiah Himself will tread on the earth.**

It should not be so surprising to many readers that Yeshua (Jesus) and the army of the angels of heaven will be on the earth when the 7 Bowl Judgments are poured out, which is what *treading the winepress of the wrath of God* means in Revelation 19:15. After all, Revelation 11:15-19 shows the Messiah coming to reign on the earth at the 7th Trumpet Judgment: *You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.* I know that many commentators on the book of Revelation have erroneously taught that the Messiah comes after all the Trumpet Judgments and Bowl Judgments; but they were wrong. After all, we also have another scripture to show the point, Revelation 14:10 which states: *he will also drink of the wine of the wrath/passion of MarYah (YHVH), which is mixed without dilution in the cup of His rage... in the presence of the holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb.* The following from Isaiah also repeats that message of Revelation 19:15, about the Messiah treading the winepress of the wrath of God on the earth.

Isaiah 63:1-4 Who is this who comes from Edom, with crimsoned garments from Bozrah? This one who is glorious in his apparel, striding in the greatness of his strength? I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. **Why is your apparel red, and your garments like the one who treads in the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone; and from the peoples there was no man with me. And I have trodden them in my anger, and trampled them in my wrath/fury. And their blood was sprinkled on my garments; and I have stained all my raiment.** For the Day of Vengeance was in My heart; and My year of redemption has come.

Some might have argued from the previous NT scriptures that they weren't fully convinced that Yeshua was on the earth when the 7 Bowl Judgments were poured out (where He treads the winepress

of the wrath of God). However, anyone can see in Isaiah 63:1-4 that this person who comes from Edom and Bozrah with stained garments **is on the earth**. He is coming from Edom, leading back those who had hid in the wilderness for the 1260 days, to Jerusalem. It is clear that Yeshua our Messiah is on the earth when the 7 Bowl Judgments are poured out.

**The Messiah (Lamb of God) and the armies of heaven come to the earth at the 7th Trumpet Judgment. The Messiah treads the winepress of the wrath of MarYah (YHVH, Yahweh) on the earth. The wine of the wrath of MarYah is the 7 Bowl Judgments.**

...and

**The second harvesting angel in Revelation 14:17-20 represents a **negative harvest** of sinners and rebellious humans on the earth, to be accomplished through the 7 Bowl Judgments.**

The specific scripture from the OT or Tanach that shows the two harvesting angels of Revelation 14 is in Joel 3:13. It shows the negative harvest aspect for the second harvesting angel, and likewise gives us our first important clue on the first harvesting angel, that it too is a negative harvest.

**Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the winepress is full, the vats overflow;** for their wickedness is great.

I colored the above verse to show you the first harvesting angel from Revelation 14 in dark blue, and the second harvesting angel in magenta. An explanation on why we know the dark blue sentence is a different harvesting than the magenta will follow shortly. First though, the last phrase in Joel 3:13 states that the *wickedness of the surrounding nations is great*. The previous verse establishes the context as the surrounding nations, that v13 refers to as: *for their wickedness is great*. It corroborates the previous conclusion from the book of Revelation that the second harvesting angel represents a **negative harvest**, and adds to it by lumping the first harvesting angel into that same category of accomplishing a **negative harvest**.

**Joel 3:13 indicates that both Harvesting Angels of Revelation accomplish a negative harvest of the earth—reaping sinners and rebellious people towards God.**

### **First Harvesting Angel:**

Now that we understand the second harvesting angel of Revelation 14, we're ready to tackle the full meaning of the first harvesting angel.

Why or how specifically does the first portion of Joel 3:13 indicate a different harvesting than the last part? The specific Hebrew words used do that. It says, “ki(for) bashal(it was ripe) qatzir (mowing/harvesting), for the harvest is ripe.” The verb “bashal” indicates a **ripe dry harvest rather than ripe grapes**, and “qatzir” definitely indicates a **dry mowing type harvest, like that for wheat**,

**oats, barley or hay.** The second part of Joel 3:13 shifts to treading the winepress, indicating a grape harvest.

If we go back to Revelation 14:15-16 concerning the first harvesting angel, the verb for *reap* in the Peshitta Aramaic NT is khatsod (v15), *to reap* is lamakhtsad (v15), and *it was reaped* is itkhatsdath (v16). These Peshitta Aramaic NT verb usages are the Hebrew equivalent of qatzir used in Joel 3:13, for mowing/reaping dried types of harvest like wheat, oats, barley or hay. **Therefore, the same language sense is used to describe the first harvesting angel in both Joel 3:13 and Revelation 14—a harvest of dried ripe material like wheat, oats, barley or hay.** This is an important clue, because the type of material harvested will eventually lead to the full explanation, as well as knowing our earlier conclusion, that it too is a negative harvest.

Note: For any who would like to look up the Aramaic verb usages in Revelation 14:15-16, refer to *A Compendious Syriac Dictionary* by J. Payne Smith, page 154, right hand column, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> entries from the top. The sense is to reap, mow or cut down crops in a field (dry ripe crops).

**The first Harvesting Angel of Revelation 14:14-16 reaps a dry type harvest of the field, like that of wheat, oats, barley or hay.**

We're getting much closer now to understanding this mysterious first harvesting angel in Revelation 14, whose scant mention there has left most Commentators avoiding the subject. Other Commentators just missed it and gave the wrong interpretation, as you will see.

Since we've seen evidence that the first harvesting angel is reaping a negative harvest, are there further scriptures showing negative harvests? The following are a few end-time harvests (4) that are negative harvests:

Isaiah 17:10-11 (to Damascus and Syria in the end-times) Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the rock of your strength; therefore shall you plant pleasant plants, and shall set it with strange slips.

**11 In the day shall you make your plant to grow; and in the morning shall you make your seed to flourish; but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate pain/sorrow.**

Jeremiah 51:33 (to the Daughter of Babylon in the end-times) For thus says Yahweh (YHVH=MarYah) of Hosts, the God of Israel, "The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor; it is time to thresh her. Yet a little while, and **the time of her harvest shall come.**"

Hosea 6:11 Also, O **Judah, he has set an harvest for you**, when I returned the captivity of my people.

James 5:1-8 **Oh! You rich men, wail and weep over the miseries which are coming upon you.**

2 For your riches are decayed and stink; and your garments are eaten by moths.

3 Your gold and silver has corroded itself; and their corrosion shall be for a witness against you, and will consume your flesh. You have gathered fire to yourselves for the last days.

4 Behold! the payment of the laborers which you have swindled, who have reaped your land, cries out; and **the call of the reapers has entered into the ears of MarYah of Hosts/Armies (YHVH, Yahweh). [or, MarYah, leader of the armies of Heaven]**

5 You have made merry upon the earth; and you have been gluttons. You have nourished your bodies, as for a day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person; and he has not opposed you.

7 But you be patient my brothers until the coming of MarYah (YHVH, Yahweh), like a farmer who waits for the precious crops of the ground; and he is patient over them until he receives the early and late rain.

8 In this way also, be patient and strengthen your hearts; for the coming of our Lord, it draws near.

The above prophecies of the end-time are about **negative harvests**, the consequences of sin and rebellion against God. Who then are those whom the Messiah rescues at His coming to reign on the earth? Primarily two groups, the natural branches that Paul mentions in Romans 11:17-31, and the grafted-in branches. The metaphor used in Romans 11 is an olive tree whose root is the Messiah; and the olive tree is called the commonwealth of spiritual Israel. The natural branches are Israel and Judah, but not all of them, those who are faithful and observant. The grafted-in branches are believers, who are born again in Yeshua our Messiah. Together the natural branches and grafted-in branches comprise the fruit bearing branches of the Word of God by faith.

Is there a clearer scriptural indication of the first harvesting angel, whose harvest is a dried ripe type harvest, and whose harvest is a negative harvest? Yes, Yeshua (Jesus) explained it specifically in the following verses:

Matthew 13:37-43 And He answered and said to them, "He who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; and **the tares are the children of the evil/wicked one.**

39 The enemy that sowed them is Satan (the deceiver); **and the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.**

40 **Therefore, just as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.**

41 **The Son of Man shall send forth his angels; and they will select out from His kingdom all of those stumbling blocks and all those doers of evil.**

42 And they will cast them into the essence of fire (or a furnace of fire); there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [essence of fire gives the sense of eternal fire]

43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has an ear that will hear, let him hear."

**The first Harvesting Angel of Revelation 14:14-16 reaps a dry type harvest of the field, like that of wheat, oats, barley or hay. It is a negative harvest. **The dry harvest is for the tares—the children of the wicked one.****

So now we know the answer to the mystery of the first harvesting angel of Revelation 14, that it is a reaping of the tares and not a positive harvest of wheat, oats, barley or hay. Tares are weeds that grow in among the crops; and in this case it is a metaphor for those who have rejected God. We have further evidence of this conclusion below, in the direct teaching by Yeshua:

Luke 17:28-37 “And again, just as it was in the days of Lot, they were eating and drinking and buying and selling; and they were planting and building.

29 But in the same day that Lot went out from Sodom, MarYah (YHVH, Yahweh) caused fire and brimstone to rain from the sky and destroyed all of them.

**30 Thus it shall be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**

31 In that day, whoever is on the roof and his stuff is in the house, let him not come down to take them. And whoever is in the field, let him not return back.

32 Remember Lot’s wife.

33 Whoever chooses to save his life shall lose it; and whoever will lose his life shall find/preserve it.

**34 I say to you, in that night, two shall be in one bed; one shall be led away captive, and the other shall be left.**

**35 Two women shall be grinding meal together; one shall be led away captive, and the other shall be left.**

**36 Two shall be in a field; one shall be led away captive, and the other shall be left.”**

37 And they answered and they were saying to Him, “To where, our Lord?” He said to them, “Wherever the bodies are, there the eagles shall be gathered.”

Note: In both the case of Sodom and Lot, or Noah and the ark, it is the wicked and rebellious towards God who are the ones removed from the earth. I mention this because some academics have twisted Luke 17:28-37 and Matthew 24:37-41 to mean the opposite in their teaching, that it is not the wicked and rebellious who are removed, but the righteous. Those are erroneous teachings; and it should be apparent to anyone reading the above text, that the wicked and rebellious are the ones *led away captive* from the earth as they were at Sodom. Meanwhile, Lot and his family were protected through it—on the earth. The same is true for Noah and the flood; where the flood took away the rebellious, while Noah and his family were protected through it—on the earth. Besides, the previous examples covered earlier all show a corroboration that the angels harvest the dried ripe tares at the end of the age (removing the tares and leaving the wheat in the parable). To be charitable toward academics who might have taught the opposite, all that I have read use Greek NT sources which is often translated *taken away*, while I have used the Peshitta Aramaic NT where the verb is *led away captive*. The Aramaic is clearly indicating a negative harvest; whereas the Greek verb '*paralambanō*' appears to have a lot of wiggle room in meaning.

We should approach Luke 17:30 above with some caution, concerning the meaning of the phrase, *on the day when the Son of Man is revealed*. Literally, it states that the reaping of the first harvesting

angel occurs on the very day that Yeshua our Messiah comes to reign on the earth—the reaping of the dried ripe tares. The emphasis of the parable is that on that very day that Lot went out from Sodom, then Sodom and its people were destroyed. I take the view that Luke 17:28-37 strongly indicates a 24-hour day. However, I can understand why some might want to expand it to **an eschatological day**, which might encompass the period from the literal day Yeshua arrives on the earth through the Judgment Seat of the Messiah.

The difference between the view of a literal 24-hour day and the view of an eschatological day (a short period of time) is the difference between the 1290 days of Daniel 12:11 and the 1335 days of Daniel 12:12. In others words, **the eschatological day period would encompass 45 days**. My own preference is for the literal 24-hour day view for Luke 17:30; and my reason is the strongly worded analogy to the destruction of Sodom that very day Lot went out. If you lean toward the eschatological day view, that's OK, since the difference between the two views is not that much to worry over.

After making that conciliatory concession, let us further consider the timing context within Revelation 14 itself. The two harvesting angels appear sequentially, with the first harvesting angel reaping the dried tares harvest **before the appearance** of the second harvesting angel. The second harvesting angel then reaps the grape harvest which is the wine of the wrath of God encompassing the longer period comprised of the 7 Bowl Judgments. Therefore, the timing context within Revelation 14 supports the literal view shown in Luke 17, where the first harvesting angel reaps the harvest of tares on the exact 24-hour day that Yeshua (Jesus) our Messiah comes to reign on the earth.

**The first Harvesting Angel of Revelation 14:14-16 reaps a dry type harvest of the field, like that of wheat, oats, barley or hay. It is a negative harvest. The dry harvest is for the tares—the children of the wicked one. Without being dogmatic, the preponderance of evidence is for a literal 24-hour day harvest of the first harvesting angel on the very day that the Messiah comes to reign on the earth.**

### **Addendum added April 2, 2008:**

An early reader of this article wondered if there was any scriptural evidence for the eschatological day period for the First Harvesting Angel of Revelation 14. Since I gave evidence above for a literal day of harvest, here is what I consider to be two pieces of evidence for the eschatological day.

First, in regards to the First Harvesting Angel who harvests the tares, one has to consider whether the antichrist and false prophet are tares or stumbling blocks. If so, then Revelation 19 shows the Second Coming of the Messiah and the removal of the antichrist and false prophet from the earth in Revelation 19:19-20.

Revelation 19:19-20 And I saw **the Beast (antichrist) and his armies**, and the kings of the earth and their soldiers **who gathered to make war with Him who sat upon the horse (the Messiah)**, and with His soldiers. And the Beast was captured and the False Prophet with him, who did signs before him by which he seduced those who received the mark of the Beast, and those who worshiped his image. And both descended and were cast into the lake of fire that burns also with brimstone.



One can assume that the Beast (antichrist) and False Prophet are tares or stumbling blocks to the people of the earth. Then it takes some short period of time after the Messiah arrives on the earth for the Beast (antichrist) and False Prophet to assemble armies to attack the Messiah and the armies of Heaven. Therefore, we can assume that they are not removed on the literal day that Yeshua our Messiah arrives on the earth to reign.

The second evidence for an eschatological day is Yeshua's use of the example of Noah and the ark in Matthew 24:37-42 and Luke 17:26-37. In Luke 17, Yeshua also used the example of Sodom and Lot, where Lot escaped on the very day Sodom was destroyed. That's evidence for a literal 24-hour day of harvest. However, with Noah and the flood, we can assume that not all people were killed immediately on the day that it started to rain. Some might have quickly moved to high ground to escape the initial flooding. We can guess that some might have escaped death on high ground for a week or two or maybe even four weeks.

It could be that Yeshua mentioned both Lot and Sodom, and Noah and the flood as two examples in Luke 17:26-37, because it covers both Harvesting Angels in Revelation 14. Noah and the flood would cover the period of the Second Harvesting Angel which covers a period of time inclusive of the 7 Bowl Judgments. Meanwhile, the example of Lot and Sodom could cover the First Harvesting Angel. If true, then my earlier assertion of the preponderance of evidence pointing to the First Harvesting Angel being a literal 24-hour day would hold. With regards to the Beast (antichrist) and False Prophet in Revelation 19:19-20, then those two would have to be excluded from the tares harvesting of the First Harvesting Angel for the literal 24-hour day to hold.

**In the end, the reader will have to weigh the evidence and explanations and decide whether the First Harvesting Angel reaps in a literal 24-hour day, or an eschatological day covering part or all of the 45 days (difference between the 1290 days and 1335 days of Daniel 12:11-12).**

**You can send comments or feedback to Roy at: [prophecy04@comcast.net](mailto:prophecy04@comcast.net)**

**If you are interested in obtaining the Peshitta Aramaic-English Interlinear NT by Pastor David Bauscher, his website is: <http://aramaicnt.com>**

**The Interlinear is available as a very low cost download eBook in full color, or a few different selections on printed Interlinears. His Interlinear is a word-for-word Interlinear. He also has a smooth English NT from the Peshitta Aramaic NT to English. For study purposes I strongly recommend the Interlinear. Pastor Bauscher also has a number of highly interesting articles on his website related to Peshitta Aramaic primacy, and other topics.**